

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /084 W

-----071413 061847Z /43

R 061440Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6763

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

CINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, AG, SS, OAU

SUBJECT: POLISARIO ATTACK ON NOUAKCHOTT: A KNOCK ON THE OAU
DOOR

1. ALGERIAN PRESS 5 JULY REPORTED POLISARIO JULY 3 ATTACK
ON NOUAKCHOTT ALONG LINES OF AFP REPORTS AND POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE.

2. PRESS CARRIED POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE WHICH PRESENTED
ATTACK AS PART OF CONTINUING "GENERAL OFFENSIVE" AND
SPECIFICALLY TIMES TO "COMMEMORATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
EL OUALI'S DEATH." COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED POLISARIO INVESTED
TOWN, BOMBARDED MILITARY BARRACKS, AIRPORT, PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE AND INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES IN LIVES AND MATERIAL.

3. ALGERIAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON ATTACK QUOTED "NUMEROUS
OBSERVERS" TO EFFECT THAT ATTACK LINKED TO OAU SUMMIT IN
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LIBREVILLE AND THAT "POLISARIO INTENDED BY THIS BURST TO
REMIND WORLD OF ITS EXISTENCE" AND OF ITS ABILITY TO
CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN SAHARA AGAINST MOROCCAN
AND MAURITANIAN TROOPS NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE.

4. SIDE BY SIDE WITH ARTICLE ON ATTACK, PRESS CARRIED
POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING GABONESE GOVERNMENT OF

COMPLICITY WITH MORROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS FOR FORBIDDING POLISARIO DELEGATION ACCESS TO OAU SESSIONS IN LIBREVILLE. POLISARIO DESCRIBED ACTION AS "POLITIQUE DU FAIT D'ACCOMPLI" AND "FLAGRANT VIOLATION" OF OAU MANDATE. IT AFFIRMED THAT ANY DELAY IN CONVOCAION OF SPECIAL SUMMIT ENDANGERED PEACE AND SECURITY IN REGION.

5. DOOR OPENS?

6. ALGERIAN PRESS 6 JULY PROCLAIMED TRIUMPHANTLY THAT SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA WILL TAKE PLACE DURING FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER AT LUSAKA AND THAT IT UP TO GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO AND OAU SEC GEN ETEKI TO FIX EXACT DATE. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DOSSIER OUVERT", EDITORIALIST HAILED LIBREVILLE OAU DECISION FOR OCTOBER SPECIAL SUMMIT AS "DIPLOMATIC VICTORY OF THE POLISARIO" AND NOTED THAT "BY ITS DESIGNATION OF PLACE AND DATE FOR SPECIAL SUMMIT, OAU INDICATED CLEARLY THAT THE DOSSIER ON THE WESTERN SAHARA IS OPEN MORE NOW THAN EVER."

7. POLISARIO PROFESSES ITSELF EQUALLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF SUMMIT. HAKIM IBRAHIM, RASD MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS, ACCORDING TO PRESS HERE, ADMITTED TO LIBREVILLE AT HEAD OF POLISARIO DELEGATION. GABONESE OFFICIAL "HAVING RANK OF MINISTER" SAID TO HAVE GREETED DELEGATION ON ITS ARRIVAL IN LIBREVILLE JULY 3. IBRAHIM THANKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GABONESE PEOPLE AND PRESIDENT BONGO FOR THIER SOLICITUDE AND NOTED HIS "SATISFACTION" AT OAU SUMMIT DECISION TO FIX DATE AND PLACE FOR SPECIAL SUMMIT. HE CALLED SUMMIT DECISION "STINGING REVERSE FOR RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT."

8. COMMENT: DIFFICULT FOR US HERE YET TO INTERPRET SIGNIFICANCE OF OAU DECISION TO FIX TIME FRAME AND PLACE FOR SUMMIT (IF INDEED IT DID). FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT IF ALGERIANS COULD NOT MAKE MUCH HEADWAY ON SAHARA AT LIBREVILLE MINISTERIAL (LIBREVILLE 1676), BOUMEDIENE AND BOUTEFLIKA CAME AWAY FROM SUMMIT WITH AS MUCH AS THEY COULD HAVE EXPECTED GIVEN BONGO'S LINKS WITH OULD DADDAH AND HASSAN AND EARLY DOMINATION OF PROCEEDINGS BY MODERATES.

9. PUBLIC FIXING OF PLACE AND TIME FRAME STEP FORWARD. IF ALGERIANS CAN KEEP BONGO'S AND ETEKI'S FEET TO FIRE AND COME UP WITH HOLDING OF SUMMIT, IT WILL REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT. PERHAPS BOUMEDIENE'S ALLEGED GOOD RELATIONS WITH BONGO MADE A DIFFERENCE. HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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